

"the Dominion of Canada consisted of immigrants from Europe who came by steamer to Montreal and thence reached the Lake ports of the United States by railroad." But Mr. Nimmo does not say what "part," nor does he give any figures. And it is to be observed there is no reference whatever to anything of this kind in the published volumes of his final reports. In the text of this Bulletin, too, he gives the total immigration from the Dominion of Canada for the 12 months ended 30th June 1881, as 118,664. But in his published final reports he gives this, as I have above stated, at 125,391, for the same 12 months; and both are precise figures, it will be noticed, down to units. Without, however, at all dwelling on this little eccentricity, I will say I have thought it proper to assume that the final reports contain the figures Mr. Nimmo desires to give to the world.

The first remark to be made with respect to these detailed statements of statistics is, that it is indubitable they could not be obtained with accuracy, nor at all obtained in the absence of some regular registration and forms of questions asked. And with respect to these points I have to state that I visited Port Huron twice, once in August last, and once in November last, in pursuance of this inquiry. I crossed the river as an ordinary passenger with the usual Grand Trunk express trains, on which there were migrants from Canada to Manitoba; and I watched with carefulness the proceedings. No questions of any kind were asked of me, either with respect to my age, or my intention to enter the United States as an emigrant or a traveller simply; and none were asked of any of the migrants to Manitoba or any other persons on these trains. In fact, neither I nor any of the passengers that my careful watching enabled me to discover, were subjected to any of the proceedings necessary to obtain the information published by Mr. Nimmo, and both the trains were ordinarily well filled with passengers. There might have been emigrants from Canada for the United States on the cars, but I could not ascertain the fact except by questioning the passengers, which I did not consider expedient, nor did I feel, being simply a passenger, I was authorised to do. Our luggage was simply opened and examined, under a shed on the United States side of the river, in the same way as is common at other custom houses, and nothing further was done. I took pains to inquire of the railway officials if the proceedings I witnessed were usual, and I was informed that nothing more was ever done.

For further and more detailed reports of the proceedings at this point between the months of January and April 1881, I refer you to those of Mr. G. R. Kingsmill (*see* Appendix, No. 39),* an officer who was placed at that point by you for the express purpose of watching and reporting such proceedings. His evidence is quite positive, and to the effect that during the four months he was on the spot there was not even a pretence made of any asking of questions, nor any counting or taking down of figures visible to him.

I did not think it advisable to ask any questions of the United States officials in the face of the kind of feeling that prevails after the exposure of last year, for the reason that I had no authority to do so. It is known there was an investigation ordered by an officer from Washington, and that it took place; but his report has not been published.

There remains the unquestioned fact published in my report of last year, as respects the proceedings on the trains, of the statement made to me at an interview by the United States Customs officer, who had the duty confided to him of making up these so-called statistics, that "questions were not asked, because it would be an impossibility to ask them and record the answers within the time afforded; that 20 men could not do this on some days." "That when he looked in the door of a car he saw at a glance what it contained and the numbers it contained, and that he could tell whether the passengers were immigrants or not; that he made up the figures after he had done examining the train. That he could not ask the questions required by the Government, but had to arrive at the information as best he could." I notice that the details of the "occupations" of the immigrants are not this year given by the Chief of the Bureau.

* Not printed.